

Boston, March 5, 1836.

My dear Wife - and my precious little Babe:

It seems to me a great while since I saw you both, and I presume there has been some crying, at least on the part of one of you, since I left.

Brother May and I had a much more comfortable ride to Providence than we anticipated. Our hearts were warm, ~~our~~ bodies well covered, and the bricks kept our feet in a very comfortable state. We arrived just before 10 o'clock, of course too late to see brother George, but in much better season than could reasonably have been expected. We found Martin Robinson at the Franklin House, of whom we ascertained that the friends in Providence were all well; and having conversed till nearly midnight, we retired to rest.

At 8 o'clock, next morning, we left for Boston in the stage-coach, (on runners,) the rail-cars being obstructed by the ice. Arrived safely at 3 o'clock, P. M. Mr. May was delighted to find his wife and his little one in prosperous health. A very kind reception was given to me by all the friends at Miss Parker's. Called immediately upon Mrs. Chapman, who was exceedingly glad to see me again in the city, especially at this crisis. In the course of the afternoon, our Board of Managers held a meeting at Mr. Sewall's office, with reference to the defence that we should make the next day before the Legislative Committee. It was finally arranged, that Mr. May should open the defence by stating the prominent facts, respecting the rise and progress of the abolition cause, and the object and motives of those who were united together in the anti-slavery societies; and also by showing the moral obligations which rested upon us, as men, as patriots, and as christians, to plead for the suffering and the dumb. It was then proposed that I should next follow, vindicating ourselves from the charge of endeavoring to excite the slaves to revolt, by quoting from our official documents, those sentiments of forgiveness, submission and non-resistance, which we have so frequently inculcated. Ellis Gray Loring was to follow me, proving that we had done nothing, and proposed to do nothing, that was repugnant either to the letter or the spirit of the U. S. Constitution, or the Constitution

of this State; and, consequently, that the Legislature could have no authority to legislate upon the subject of abolition. Mr. Sewall was to succeed Mr. Loring, and show that not only had we not violated the Constitution, but that we had not infringed upon any statute or law of the State or of Congress - &c. &c. &c.

In the evening, I took tea at Mrs. Chapman's; after which, as I sat holding forth conversation with the Westons and Chapmans, who should come into the room with bro. May, but our esteemed friend Wm. Goodell from Providence? It seems that he had ^{learned} of the contemplated examination, and was at once deputed by our abolition friends in P. to be present. It was at once arranged by us, that he should address the Committee on this point - what a law against abolition would not do, and what it would do - i. e. it would not put down the anti-slavery cause, nor suppress excitement, nor gag the abolitionists - it would only disgrace the Commonwealth.

That night I tarried at Mr. Chapman's, having first seen bro. Henry and friend Knapp, whom I found to be in good health.

Yesterday afternoon, we went up to the State House to present ourselves and our cause before the august committee, &c. The gallery of the Senate was filled at an early hour with a choice and crowded assembly of ladies, who had got information that Paul and King Agrippa were to have an interview. The committee seemed, for some time, to be resolved that our meeting should be a failure, as they kept us waiting for an hour and a half longer than the appointed time. However, they at last concluded to allow us to go into the spacious hall of the House of Representatives, and our audience soon became large and highly respectable, many members of the legislature being present,

and also the Westons, the Chapmans, Miss Martineau, Miss Jeffrey, Mrs. Follen, Dr. Channing, &c. I was introduced to Dr. C. on the spot, and shook hands with him, but had no opportunity to converse with him.

Mr. May began the defence, and spoke pretty for nearly an hour, but was frequently interrupted by the members of the committee, who, with one exception, behaved in an insolent and arbitrary manner. Mr. Loring then spoke for about 15 or 20 minutes in a very admirable manner. Mr. Goodell then followed at some length, very ably, but was cramped by the committee. I succeeded him pretty warmly, but without interruptions. Prof. Follen began next, with great boldness and elegance, ^{but} and had not proceeded far before he was stopped by the chairman of the committee, very impudently, who said it was a mere matter of favor that we were permitted to be heard at all. We resented the imputation, and asserted our right to be heard - and finally told the committee that we should petition the Legislature for leave to be heard as a matter of right, which we did to day, and are to be heard next week. The effect has been good for our cause. You shall hear again by the next mail.


Henry and Knapp desire to be kindly remembered to all, especially to the little babe in the way of Kisses. Take good care of the dear one and of yourself.

With abundant love,

Yours, till death,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Single

 Mrs. Helen C. Garrison,
Brooklyn,
Connecticut.

